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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1987

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Executive Branch welcomes the opportunity to provide further testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on S. 1721. This legislation proposes significant changes in the current law governing intelligence operations and congressional notification. It has far-reaching implications not only for the intelligence community, but for other elements of the national security community, and touches constitutional issues as well.

In view of the broad implications of this legislation, the Administration would like to propose that additional witnesses appear before the Committee to follow up on Judge Webster's testimony. We propose that Charles Cooper, Assistant Attorney General, Frank Carlucci, Secretary of Defense, and George Shultz, Secretary of State, testify on the Administration's behalf. Hearing the views of these officials will, we believe, ensure that members of the Committee have a full understanding of the implications this bill holds for our intelligence capability.

We ask your tolerance in the schedule of hearings for Administration witnesses. Frank Carlucci is currently in Europe, returning to Washington late this week to play a key role in the U.S.-Soviet Summit. George Shultz is also, of course, deeply involved in next week's Summit and then departs for Europe to debrief the Allies on President Reagan's meetings with General Secretary Gorbachev. We would like to propose, therefore, that Charles Cooper testify before the Committee the week of December 9, that Frank Carlucci testify the week of December 14, preferably on the morning of December 16, and that Secretary Shultz testify as soon thereafter as possible. We will ask each of the departments to work with your staff on the exact scheduling of the hearings. We would also like to suggest to the Committee the names of a few expert witnesses who, we believe, would add to the understanding of the concerns the Executive branch has with S. 1721.

In order to insure effective cooperation between the Committee and the Executive Branch, the National Security Council staff will serve as a focal point for this legislation. Barry Kelly, the Senior Director for Intelligence, National Security Council, will coordinate Administration views on this legislation. Alison Fortner, the National Security Council's Senior Director for Legislative Affairs, will serve as the point of contact for the Committee within the Administration. They will be working under

the direction of Colin Powell, Acting National Security Advisor. Barry and Alison, working with Sven Holmes and Jim Dykstra, arranged a meeting between an interagency team of National Security Council, Justice, Defense, State, and Central Intelligence Agency staff officials and SSCI staff to go over the legislation.

We will make every effort to accommodate the Committee's needs. But, we hope you will allow sufficient time for the serious issues raised by this bill to be thoroughly addressed. We now have in place new, rigorous procedures governing the approval and review of special activities; we have addressed concerns expressed in earlier communications between the Committee and the Executive branch. I hope, therefore, that the Committee will agree that time should be taken to address thoroughly the issues raised by this legislation.

We look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. L. Ball, III', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William L. Ball, III
Assistant to the President

The Honorable David L. Boren
Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6475

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